



News Release

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SEQUOYAH NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT SCHEDULED

This year marks the 113th anniversary of the National Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count. The Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is a long-standing program based on citizen science involvement. It is an early-winter bird census, where thousands of volunteers across the U.S., Canada and 19 countries in the Western Hemisphere, go out over a 24 hour period to count birds.

The annual Sequoyah National Wildlife Refuge Christmas Bird Count will be held on Wednesday, December 19, 2012, and is free of charge to all participants. Volunteers interested in participating should arrive at 7:00AM at the refuge headquarters. From I-40 take the Vian exit 297, travel approximately 3 miles south on the county road, follow the signs to the refuge. Everyone is welcome to participate! Check the weather forecast and dress appropriately, and plan on being out for about 6-8 hours if you stay for the entire event.

CBC participants are organized into groups - or field parties - by the organizer of the Count. Each field party covers a specific route in a specific area of the 15-mile diameter circle determined for this count. In order to ensure a great experience for everyone involved, all field parties are arranged so inexperienced observers are always with seasoned birders from the Indian Nations Chapter of the National Audubon Society.

Members of the Indian Nations Chapter of the National Audubon Society have been an intricate part of planning this event, organizing the routes, and compiling the data for many years. These members offer many years of field experience identifying and counting birds.

Each of the citizen scientists who annually brave snow, wind, or rain (yes, we sometimes have gorgeous sunny days) to take part in the Christmas Bird Count makes an enormous contribution to conservation. Audubon and other organizations use data collected in this longest-running wildlife census to assess the health of bird populations across the Western Hemisphere. Please come out and enjoy a day of birding with your family and friends while building new friendships at this great event!

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals, and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov. Connect with our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/usfws, follow our tweets at www.twitter.com/usfwshq, watch our YouTube Channel at <http://www.youtube.com/usfws> and download photos from our Flickr page at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/usfwshq>.

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